

**Virginia Commission for the Arts
Minutes
December 1, 2011
Alexandria, Virginia**

Members Present: Deborah Wyld, Chair; Lisa Alderman, Willie Dell, Charles G. Ellis, Gwen Everett, Tina Lea, Sharon Kitchen Miller, Pat Perry, Evelia Gonzalez Porto, Ann Edwards Rust, Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Marcia Thalhimer, and Ann Bondurant Trinkle

Staff Present: Peggy Baggett, Foster Billingsley, Tiffany Glass Ferreria, and Cathy Welborn

Guests Present: Congressman Jim Moran, Jonathan Katz with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and Andi Mathis and Laura Scanlan with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Introduction

Deborah Wyld, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Lisa Alderman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting in Abingdon, Virginia. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Artist Fellowships in Fiction

Deborah Wyld presented information on the artists who were recommended for fellowships in the category of fiction.

Marcia Speck made a motion to award \$5,000 to the four artists recommended by the review panel:

Samar Fitzgerald, Staunton
Kelly Kerney, Richmond
Marie Potoczny, Richmond
Steve Watkins, Fredericksburg

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Deborah Wyld presented the artists who were recommended as alternates in the category of fiction:

Art Taylor, Burke
Kristen Paige Madonia Gordon, Charlottesville
Lenore Hart, Franktown
Irene Zeigler, Richmond

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve the alternates as presented by the panel. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Report on NASAA Meeting

Lisa Alderman, Peggy Baggett and Foster Billingsley reported on their recent attendance at a NASAA Leadership Institute in Charleston, West Virginia. Topics at the Institute included the future of state arts agencies, media relations through tough times, taking stock of arts advocacy, and public sector problem solving.

National Endowment for the Arts

Peggy Baggett introduced Andi Mathis, State & Regional Specialist Partnership Division and Laura Scanlan, State & Regional Director Partnership Team Leader Partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Andi Mathis discussed the background and creation of the National Endowment for the Arts. She also discussed the different grant programs that the Endowment offers, specifically the Partnership Agreement that the state arts agencies receive.

Laura Scanlan discussed the challenges in the state arts agency field and the NEA's response to these challenges. She discussed new initiatives such as the "Our Town Program", "ArtPlace", and the "Mayors Institute for Community Design."

Andi and Laura discussed the possible new reporting requirements that state arts agencies may have to provide in 2013. These new reporting requirements will help the NEA give Congress a better picture of the impact of the arts in the country and in each state.

Guest Speaker Congressman Jim Moran

Peggy Baggett introduced Congressman Jim Moran. He discussed the issues that Congress is facing and the importance of the arts. Some of the points in his remarks were as follows:

- There will not be any further discussion in Congress this year to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts or the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- The most effective way to advocate for the arts is through arts education, job creation and economic development.
- As Virginia becomes more technology oriented it is relying more on the arts to recruit new businesses to the state.

Presentations

Congressman Moran presented Peggy Baggett a commemorative plaque for her 35 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He also read the proclamation that was submitted into the Congressional Record.

Laura Scanlan with the National Endowment for the Arts presented Peggy Baggett a certificate on behalf of Rocco Landesman, Chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts for 35 years of service to the arts.

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Deborah Wyld introduced Jonathan Katz, CEO of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, he gave a presentation on “How Political Movements Succeed.”

Barksdale Theatre and Theatre IV

Deborah Wyld discussed the merger of the Barksdale Theatre and Theatre IV. Phil Whiteway, Managing Director of both theatres, submitted a multi-year plan to gradually reduce Commission funding for the Barksdale Theatre after the merger.

The Commissioners discussed the proposal provided by Barksdale Theatre and Theatre IV. Deborah Wyld asked that the staff request more information about the merger which will be presented at the April 4, 2012 Commission meeting.

The Commissioners will discuss and make a decision on this proposal at the June 13 – 14, 2012 Commission meeting.

2012 – 2013 Guidelines for Funding

Deborah Wyld presented the proposed draft of the 2012 – 2013 Guidelines for Funding. She reviewed the changes that were made to the Guidelines.

The wording of the Commission’s mission statement was discussed. Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to change the wording of the mission statement to **“The Virginia Commission for the Arts encourages and invests in art for all Virginians.”** The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the 2012 – 2013 Guidelines for Funding with the changes as presented by Deborah Wyld. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Budget

Foster Billingsley discussed the \$73,000 unallocated grant funds that were due to canceled projects and final reports not submitted in 2010 - 2011.

Deborah Wyld presented the staff’s recommendation for the use of these unallocated funds.

- \$25,000 to support MINDS WIDE OPEN: Children and the Arts 2012
- \$5,000 for the 2012 Art Works for Virginia conference
- \$43,000 for the Technical Assistance grant program

Willie Dell made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the use of the unallocated grant funds. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously

Updates

Peggy Baggett gave an update on Virginians for the Arts. Charlotte Anders has been hired to be the new Executive Director and Marny Hackley has been hired as the new Operations Manager.

Peggy Baggett gave an overview of the budget committee's meetings on how the federal cutbacks will affect Virginia's budget.

There was a general discussion of the next steps in the advocacy effort.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.